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KISSINGER TESTIFIES ON 'BRIBERY' BY KOREA

Hints Efforts to Buy Influence
Continued Beyond Date Generally
Given for Last Payments

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WASHINGTON, April 20—Henry A. Kissinger indicated in testimony today that South Korean efforts to buy influence from American Congressmen may have gone on longer than publicly disclosed to date.

The former Secretary of State told a House investigating subcommittee that he first became aware of the alleged bribery in early 1975 but that the evidence was inconclusive.

Late in 1975, Mr. Kissinger said, he was given much more definite information about the bribery. He said he informed President Ford, who ordered the information turned over to the Attorney General for investigation. Mr. Ford has confirmed that.

That information, according to informed officials, referred to bribery alleged to have taken place at that time, as well as to earlier bribes. Previous public testimony has shown that most South Korean money being given to American Congressmen stopped in 1974, a year earlier.

'Not Lobbying but Bribery'

Mr. Kissinger clearly labeled the alleged acts as bribery, saying they were first brought to him by then Assistant Secretary of State Philip C. Habib. He said that Mr. Habib had called his attention "not to lobbying but to bribery."

Mr. Kissinger declined later to give reporters many details about the list of alleged bribes, other than to repeat his testimony that it had come from a sensitive intelligence source.

Informed officials said, however, that the information had come from an electronic interception of South Korean communications obtained by the National Security Agency, which monitors communications around the world.

Those officials also said that the intelligence reports did not refer to Tongsun Park, the covert Korean lobbyist who testified recently that most of his payments to Congressmen ended in 1974. But the officials did not disclose the source of the later payments.

Moreover, Mr. Kissinger testified that he believed that the new information was not in the possession of the Attorney General in late 1975, when an investigation into Tongsun Park's activities was already well under way.

Little Additional Knowledge

While Mr. Kissinger also added more details of the timing and the extent of his knowledge of the South Korean affair he added little to public knowledge of the secret South Korean effort to influence American policy, or what United States officials knew about it.

The investigating subcommittee, headed by Representative Donald M. Fraser, Democrat of Minnesota, is charged with determining the means with which the South Koreans sought to manipulate American policy from 1968 to 1976, and what United States officials knew and did about it.

Mr. Kissinger said that he had "no recollection" of three letters addressed to him in 1971 and 1972 by the late J. Edgar Hoover, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, about alleged activity of the Korean Central Intelligence Agency. He said that he did recall one allegation of bribery but could not pinpoint his source of information.

John N. Mitchell, the former Attorney General, testified last month that he recalled seeing one of the letters and acted on it but that he was sure he had not seen the two others.

Mr. Kissinger said that he could not recall an allegation contained in one of the Hoover letters that the South Koreans had contributed several hundred thousand dollars to the Democratic Party. He said it was "inconceivable" that he would not have remembered that, had he seen

In one of the few wry comments he permitted himself, Mr. Kissinger added: "I find it even more inconceivable that Mr. Mitchell would have done nothing about it." That was in 1972, when Mr. Mitchell was moving into Mr. Nixon's re-election campaign and presumably would have relished information, as Mr. Kissinger put it, that was "potentially embarrassing" to the Democrats.

The Occidental Petroleum Corporation disclosed that its coal subsidiary paid \$15,357 in 1975 for Tongsun Park to act as its agent. Page D1.

Mayor of Gary, Ind.